

Supported employment services are available to individuals with the most severe disabilities in all disability categories including developmental disabilities, severe mental illness, traumatic brain injury, and physical disabilities. Services are provided by eighteen providers, sixteen of which are private non-profit, one private for-profit and one public provider through a regional human service center. Vocational Rehabilitation projects to serve approximately two hundred fifty individuals with the most severe disabilities, using primarily individual placement in competitive employment. Other modes such as mobile work crew may also be considered. During FFY 2008, VR expects to implement a new outcome-based reimbursement method for supported employment services.

Individuals with the most severe disabilities will be served and outcomes achieved through the implementation of the following activities.

- Continued education and awareness activities for the business community, lawmakers, service providers, educators, family members, and the general public.

- Targeting supported employment as an outcome for students with the most severe disabilities transitioning from school-to-work through regional transition services.

- Coordination of the interfacing of the departments, agencies, divisions, organizations and programs whose activities have a direct impact on Supported Employment Services.

- Identification of training and technical assistance needs based on provider outcome data.

- Continued required licensing for all supported employment providers which will include accreditation by a national accrediting body.

Supported employment training is provided up to 18 months, unless more time is necessary for the client. In order to ensure continuity and a smooth transition, documentation must demonstrate that the consumer meets the criteria for transitioning to extended services.

Criteria for transitioning to extended services is as follows:

1. Substantial progress towards hours per week goal.
2. Satisfactory performance of all job duties and reasonable expectation it will continue.
3. 20% intervention or less for 2 months or intervention at a consistent level above 20% for 4 months.
4. Extended services is immediately available from sources other than VI-B or 110.

Documentation must show that the consumer was in employment for 90 days before the counselor closed the case 26, and that payment for extended services is available from sources other than 110 or VI-B.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors should notify extended service providers and funders, Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health, at least 30 days prior to the transition to extended services to allow time to determine extended service payments and write authorizations.